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Department of State

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 INR-10 SS-15 SY-05 /051 W
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R 202135Z FEB 80
FM FBIS CHIVA CHIVA PN
TO FBIS WASHDC
USSCCC QUARRY HTS PN//SCJ2 SCSA//
INFO COMANTOEFCOM ROOSEVELT ROADS PR
CDR 4TH PSYOP GROUP FT BRAGG NC
USAFSO/IN HOWARD AFB PN
CDR 470TH MIGP FT CLAYTON PN
NAVSTA PANAMA CANAL RODMAN PN
CDR 193D INF BDE FT CLAYTON PN
FBIS STORAGE CENTER WASHDC
VOA WASHDCE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR ES (INFO DAMBRAVA, PAO)
SECSTATE WASH DC (FOR ARA/CEN/ES)
FBPA

UNCLAS
COPY TO ELAD
EL SALVADOR: RIGHTS COMMISSION ISSUES DEMANDS ON 13 FEB INCIDENT
PA202135
SAN SALVADOR LA PRENSA GRAFICA IN SPANISH 14 FEB 80 P 58 PA
((PRESS BULLETIN ISSUED ON 12 FEBRUARY BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF EL SALVADOR))

((TEXT)) THE FACTS:

SERIOUS INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY ON 13 FEBRUARY IN SAN SALVADOR. THESE INCIDENTS VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND PERSONAL SAFETY OF THE SALVADORANS.

A) AFTER THE MILITANTS OF THE MERS ((MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)) HAD PEACEFULLY AND VOLUNTARILY EVACUATED AT NOON THE EDUCATION MINISTRY, THEY BEGAN HEADING TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. WHEN THEY WERE NEAR THE BASILICA, THE DEMONSTRATION WAS ATTACKED BY UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE THAT WERE RIDING ON A TRUCK THAT WAS HEADING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. THE POLICEMEN STEPPED OFF THE TRUCK TO SHOOT AT THE DEMONSTRATORS.

ALL THIS ACTION WAS SEEN BY THE EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICES SITUATED IN THE AREA, AS WELL AS BY MANY INTERNATIONAL NEWSMEN. AS A RESULT OF THIS ACTION WHICH VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS, THREE YOUNG STUDENTS WERE KILLED, INCLUDING ONE GIRL, AND MANY WERE LEFT WOUNDED.

IMMEDIATELY, THE ENTIRE AREA--INCLUDING THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY ((PDC))--WAS ENCLOSED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE, LEAVING THE AREA PRACTICALLY UNDER MILITARY CONTROL. LATER ON, AT APPROXIMATELY 1700, THE POLICE VIOLENTLY EVACUATED THE PDC HEADQUARTERS, WITH THE FOLLOWING TOLL: 5 MEMBERS OF THE 28 FEBRUARY PEOPLES LEAGUES WHO WERE OCCUPYING THE PLACE WERE KILLED, 23 WERE CAPTURED AND 14 ARE MISSING. AT THE TIME THIS BULLETIN IS BEING DRAFTED, THE BODIES OF THE YOUNG PERSONS ARE STILL INSIDE THE PDC BUILDING THE SECURITY CORPS WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO TAKE OUT THOSE BODIES. WHEN A JUDGE TRIED TO ENTER THE BUILDING TO IDENTIFY THE BODIES, HE WAS FORCED OUT BY SHOOTING.

AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, A FIRE BOMB WAS THROWN IN THE MORNING AT THE OFFICES OF THE LPU 28 ((NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED)). AS A RESULT, THIS OFFICE WAS SET ON FIRE, AS WELL AS THE UR19 ((NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED)) OFFICE NEXT DOOR, AND BOTH WERE BURNED TO CINDERS. ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESSES, THE ACTION WAS CARRIED OUT BY 3 UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE STANDING ABOUT 10 METERS AWAY WHEN THEY HURLED THE FIRE BOMB AT THE OFFICES. THEY THEN FLED. ONLY PROPERTY DAMAGE RESULTED AND NO ONE WAS HURT.

IN VIEW OF THESE SERIOUS INCIDENTS THAT VIOLATE THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND PERSONAL SAFETY, THE COMMISSION:

VIGOROUSLY CONDEMNS THE ATTACK CARRIED OUT BY THE NATIONAL POLICE AGAINST THE MERS DEMONSTRATION AND THE VIOLENT EVICTION OF THE PERSONS OCCUPYING THE PDC HEADQUARTERS WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF FIVE YOUTHS OF THE MERS AND FIVE MEMBERS OF THE LP-28.

THE COMMISSION DEMANDS THE IMMEDIATE ACTION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE TO SEE THAT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED AND THAT THE SECURITY CORPS PUT AN END TO THE ARRESTS. AND THAT ALL THOSE MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES LEAGUES WHO ARE CAPTURED OR MISSING BE TURNED OVER TO THE COURTS 72 HOURS AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN CAPTURED AND THEIR SAFETY BE ASSURED.

2) ((THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE--FBIS)) SHOULD ORDER THE INSPECTION OF THE BODIES THAT ARE INSIDE THE PDC HEADQUARTERS IN THIS CITY AND NO MEMBER OF THE SECURITY CORPS SHOULD HINDER THIS LEGAL ACTION.

THE COMMISSION HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT A REPORT BROADCAST YESTERDAY BY THE RADIO SAYING THAT THIS COMMISSION WAS PRESENT AT THE PDC HEADQUARTERS WHEN THE PERSONS INISDE THE BUILDING WERE EVICTED IS COMPLETELY FALSE.

((ISSUED)) SAN SALVADOR, 13 FEBRUARY 1980

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF EL SALVADOR

((SIGNED)) HILDA GLORIA SALAZAR, 2-1-048347; JOSE ANTONIO HERNANDEZ, 1-1-173643; IVAN ESCOBAR MELENDEZ, 1-4-029224; RAMON VALLADARES PEREZ, 5-5-000390; MARIANELLA GARCIA VILLAS, 1-1-157572.
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
RETRIEVED BY _____ DATE 8 JUL 1982
EDITION TO BE RET. DATE _____
TO BE RET. _____ PERMANENT ☐
EXEMPTIONS APPLY ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

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